

PRINCIPALS' MONTHLY REPORT – FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

David Park and Dale Lewis –

With contributing reports from teachers, advisors, coaches, and the community.

MONTH: NOVEMBER 2008

CAREER DAY

We will be running Career Day in a different way this year. Previously we have had over 40 career representatives all come on one day, and they would each talk to two 40-minute groups of students. Every student in the building signed up for these presentations, presumably based on their career interests, and we dedicated a whole period of the day to the event. While it had positive elements, it was logistically complicated, and we found many cases of students not *really* being interested in whatever the presentation was. The idea this year is to make it available only to those who have a serious interest in the career. We will have a two-week or month-long career theme and will invite guest speakers to come to the career room or auditorium to make presentations about some aspect of that career. Anyone who is interested in the career would sign up for it and come to the session which would be held during our half-hour long tutorial period. Students with serious grade, behavior, or attendance deficiencies may not be eligible for these sessions. A benefit of this is that students who are truly interested could see a professional(s) from, for example, the medical field. We may actually end up inviting MORE guests, giving our students additional exposure to career guidance – it would just be a more focused approach for the school. NOTE: This is how we manage the program of college recruiters and we believe it is an efficient, appropriate arrangement. The PATS organization will be assisting us by contacting potential presenters for this program. We appreciate their efforts.



Drawing by Anna
Hanks – FHS Senior

ARTS NEWS!!!

-FHS art students are submitting works to display for Fairview Night at Barnes & Noble on December 5th. The drawing and painting students studied the art of masks, then created original masks representative of many cultures. The masks incorporated many materials including feathers, beads, lace, ribbon, raffia and acrylic paint.

-Ann Schoeller recently attended the Pa Dept of Education Integration Conference and has eportfolio models to share with teachers who work with students in career exploration and career portfolios.

STUDENT STORE UPDATE

An important goal this year is to have the student store (located in the northwestern corner of our cafeteria) up and running on a regular basis with a combination of clothing and school related materials and some food/beverage items. It opened on November 4th. Two teachers, Ms. Beddick and Señorita Espada, have been hired to oversee this operation. Students assisting with this project include Kim Fiorenzo, Tricia Gajewski, and Jessica Kocan.

We believe we will be accomplishing FIVE objectives if this project is successful:

1. Light packaged breakfast items are available as well as 100% juices, milk, and hot chocolate. Research shows that students do better if they have something for breakfast before tackling their classwork for the day. These will be consumed in the cafeteria prior to homeroom. (We are also looking into the possibility of serving during the tutorial period for small groups on a rotating basis).
2. Selling items to increase school spirit such as sweatshirts, hats, pins, t-shirts, mugs, etc. all with our logos and colors. These are requested frequently by students, family, and visitors. We will soon have them available in the office, in the store, on-line, and at all sporting events.
3. This will be a for-profit endeavor with funds going to the Key Club and projects that will directly benefit either the school or the community.

4. Students who work on the store project will gain valuable business/ entrepreneurial experience.

5. We better utilize 'prime real estate' in the school to meet students' needs.

The store will be open in the morning before school, during lunch (for non-food items), after school, and during sporting events.

Items sold in the store will be different than those sold by booster groups, the cafeteria, and in vending machines.



Article submitted by CFF Coach, Pam Stevens

November 2008

As I write this announcement, eighty new Lenovo laptops and two new carts are being prepared in our library for installation in math, science and English classrooms! Special thanks to Fairview's Technology Director Brian Junker and to Scot Layman for facilitating a successful rollout. Much preparation occurs in the background that may not be recognized very often. Thanks, too, to our Facilities Director Dave Muye and his maintenance team members Randy Fedei and Preston McKeen, seven new projectors and five new Promethean Boards are being installed in the high school.



The teachers who have volunteered to participate in the grant also have attended a regional training, during which time teachers learned about numerous web 2.0 tools and 21st Century software. Teachers selected sessions to learn to use Geometers' Sketchpad, Google docs, Inspiration, Audacity and Photo Story, Promethean Activstudio, Discovery Education (United Streaming), and Google Earth. If you do not know what these terms mean, they are new resources that teachers are using to transform Fairview's classroom instruction by using collaborative, engaging, and interactive activities.

Additionally, CFF teachers also devoted a great day of training to learn about and enhance Promethean board skills and to develop interactive learning materials for their students. Our staff members are learning more than they ever imagined!

What's next? Video conferencing! Through the IU5 grant LEARN Initiative, Fairview School District received a video conferencing camera. Fairview Middle School students have participated in two simulations using the video conferencing technology already! We also are in the process of investigating inviting some formal programs that can offer our students distance learning opportunities. There are regional universities who are interested in developing distance learning foreign language programs with Fairview High School.

ACADEMICS

Students of the Month for November

9 th Grade	Katie Slezak
10 th Grade	Mia Kennedy
11 th Grade	Tim Gilson
12 th Grade	John Schmidt

The National Honor Society induction is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th at 7:00 pm. Thirty seven new members will be inducted based on scholarship, character, service and leadership.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Environmental Science Field Trip Notes

On October 30th, ninety FHS students traveled to the Presque Isle State Park and the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) as part of the new ninth grade Environmental Science Curriculum. According to freshman, Christine Wilson, "It was a fun-filled day and I got to learn more about the ecosystem we live in."

The field trip began with a Near Shore Lake Study on Presque Isle State Park. While on the peninsula, students participated in seining and identifying fish in the bay, water testing, and an erosion study of the beaches. Back at the TREC, students watched *The Mysteries of the Great Lakes* and participated in three lab stations in the Regional Science Consortium. The lab stations allowed students to identify macroinvertebrates from the ponds of Presque Isle, learn about aquaculture (including trying to catch and handle steelhead yearlings), and efforts to catalogue the flora of the peninsula. Emily Welch (Class of 2012) reflected on the day's experiences by saying that, "The field trip helped me think about nature and how humans can influence it."

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Speaking class recently held a product fair in which students chose a currently available product or designed a new product that they thought all teens must have. Each student developed a brief presentation with computerized data and/or boards to show the product as 9th and 11th graders walked around to the stations. The most popular products chosen by the students were an electric toothbrush and an iMachine (one product created by a student in the class). This persuasive small group assignment was well received by the class; many said it gave them a view of the business world they never had before.

MATH

The math department is planning a new PSSA remediation course for sophomores - students will be scheduled for that course based on data from PVAAS and PSSA scores and math grades in 9th grade. This course will be a semester in length and will provide extra instruction and practice on the math standards, especially open ended questions. We are also creating a new PSSA prep class to be offered for non-college bound juniors who don't need to take the SAT prep course. This will be a 9 week course to run opposite of Computer Applications II.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The special education department would like to welcome a new student to Fairview High School, Nick Demchak, who is a senior. He came to Fairview from Corry and is excited after high school to go to technical school.

The special education department is currently in the process of completing this quarter progress monitoring sheets for our students. These will be mailed home to the parents this month. The transition program that enables the special education students to job shadow for one day is being developed.

The special education department would like to thank the staff for their participation in the inclusion and IEP meetings. At this time, it is important to note the new Special Education Handbook each department head has that reminds everyone of the procedures and guidelines for special education. The cooperation between all teachers helps each student be more successful.

WORLD LANGUAGES NEWS

1. Cholet Exchange –The French returned to Cholet on November 1. There were numerous activities and excursions during their stay included: Pittsburgh Andy Warhol museum and visit to the Strip district for shopping and lunch; Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum; Niagara Falls; Fort Leboeuf; and New York City (tour Empire State Building, Ground Zero and boat ride around the Statue of Liberty) on their return trip. The students at FHS enjoyed the home stay visitors as well as interacting with them during the school day.
2. Trips – Twelve students and four adults will travel to Cholet in April 2009 for fifteen days for the reciprocal exchange. Twelve students and two adults will leave for Costa Rica in June for nine days.

3. Fund Raiser - The joint fund raiser for the Spanish and French clubs was a huge success. The clubs realized a profit of approximately \$2550, to be used for various club activities and classroom incentives. Top sellers for the clubs were Jessica Balliett (\$48 incentive prize – French Club) and Jen Mix (\$35 incentive prize – Spanish Club). Students traveling to Cholet and Costa Rica will also receive money from their sales to be used for the expense of their trips.
4. Clubs – Spanish club members met the last week in October to make papel picado (cut paper) for Dia de los Muertos. The decorative paper strings are displayed in Senora's classroom.
5. The French and Spanish classes will be starting plans for joint caroling during the last week of class in December. Students from advanced classes will meet beforehand to learn carols in both languages.



Montage by Andrew Baldwin–
FHS Senior

ATHLETICS

The following are the Athletes of the Week for
10/18/08

Football	Brooks Linkowski
	Jared Lane
Boy's Soccer	Austin O'Keane
Girl's Soccer	Julia Schroeck
Volleyball	Becca McKinney
	Taylor Rosantz
Golf	Jesse Treverton
	Dan Burger
Girl's X- Country	Tori Moore
Boy's X- Country	Josh Eckendorf
Girl's Tennis	Alysia Sturdivant
	Christina Barnes
Cheerleading	Heather Kern
Band	Jack Hall

The following are the Athletes of the Week for
10/25/08

Football	Pete Jackson
	Jordan Boice
Boy's Soccer	Guilherme Carreira
Girl's Soccer	Rachel Tallmadge
Volleyball	Megan Weaver
Golf	Joey Kloecker
Girl's X- Country	Jenna Klemm
Boy's X- Country	Sam Havko
	CJ Kennett
(All team members)	John Hurd
	Adam Walker
	Brit Claridge
	Josh Eckendorf
	Brendon Gregory
	Jacob Robertson
Cheerleading	Emily Lehr
Band	Katie Metzenbacher

A very successful Fall Sports Season came to a close with a number of teams participating in the PIAA post season. The boys' and girls' soccer teams both won District 10 championships. The football team advanced to the district playoffs once again, while the girls' tennis team and boys' golf team were well represented in District 10 play. The boys' cross country team also had an impressive showing in the state meet.

The volleyball team finished tied for fourth place in Region 5. The Lady Tigers finished the season with a 10-8 overall record. The girls gained some valuable playing experience by competing in a number of tournaments. Fairview won first place honors in the Fort LeBoeuf Invitational.

Despite losing 14 players to graduation this year, the football team surprised a number of people by posting a 7-3 record and qualifying for the District 10 playoffs. They were also in the race for the region title into the last week of the season.

The girls' tennis team registered another winning season with a 10-2 overall record. Both losses were at the hands of a powerful Mercyhurst Prep team. Despite graduating a solid core of seniors, the team will return a talented group of underclassmen next year.

The cross country teams enjoyed a successful season under first-year coach Helen Gruneisen. The girls won the Region 5 championship, while the boys tied for the title with General McLane and Mercyhurst Prep. The boys' team finished second in the District 10 meet and sixth overall in the PIAA Championship Race.

The boys' soccer program finished another successful season with a 16-5 record and a District 10 Class A Championship. The boys were in third place in Region 3, but upset Mercyhurst Prep to capture the title.

The girls' soccer program continued its winning tradition. The Lady Tigers finished the season with a 17-3-1 record. Fairview won its fourth straight District 10 Class AA championship and a Region 3 title. The Lady Tigers suffered a heartbreaking 1-0 setback to Springdale in the PIAA quarterfinals.

The golf team won its fourth region championship in five years. Fairview was well-represented in District 10 play. This year's team had a good mix of underclassmen and seniors. The future is very bright for the Tigers.

The marching band and cheerleaders also had successful seasons. Both continue to be among the top programs in the region.

Winter Sports Season officially started Monday, November 17th. The first regular season competition begins Friday, December 5th. We wish the best of luck to our Fairview Tiger teams

ATTENDANCE

Average number of absences per day - 23 per day 3.7% of our total 620

Total number of tardies from 10-15-08 to 11-14-08 - 356 tardies

Average number of tardies per day - 16 per day 2.5% of our total 620

DISCIPLINE

Detentions are starting to increase as the number of tardies increase as the year goes on. A number of letters have been sent out, warning parents about attendance issues.

Three students have been sent to the Alternative Education Center (CAEP). Two other students have been assigned to the Refocus Room on a long-term basis.

The HALT anti-bullying class meetings continue every Tuesday. Several DVDs have been shown to the entire school. Classroom discussions continue during the tutorial period.

LIBRARY

The library has just received many new books from the 08-09 budget. We have also purchased many Playaways. Playaways are the next generation of audio books and what Oprah has called "One of her new favorite gadgets." Playaways are the simplest way to listen to audio on the go. Playaways come with the digital content already pre-loaded on it and a battery to make it play. Simply plug in ear buds and enjoy! No cassettes. No CDs. No Downloads. Just Play. Come visit the FHS library and check one out today!

The FHS Young Adult Book Club continues to grow each month. In November a group of students met to discuss The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon and Thank You for Smoking by Christopher Buckley. Students have chosen to read Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson for the month of December.

The FHS library is also continuing to grow with the Classrooms for the Future. With the help of Pam Stevens, the library is working on becoming a Library of the Future. Our goal is to become a place where students, faculty, and community members can come to learn and use the many tools and skills that have been called Web 2.0 tools. We are anxiously awaiting for the installation of our Promethean board. With this tool we hope to spread the use of 21st century skills to all content areas, even those not designated as Classrooms for the Future.

Students are continuing to be taught new ways to present information they have learned. Many require the use of digital cameras and digital video recorders. The library has purchased several new pieces of equipment so that students and faculty can practice creating presentations using these tools.

We are also working very diligently on writing grants to help with the funding in purchasing the equipment to reach our goal of becoming a Library of the Future.

OTHER EXTRACURRICULARS

Key Club Activities for the month of November

NHS Induction Reception
Leaf Raking
School Store Cashiers
Cookies for the Soup Kitchen

PROGRAMS

MENTORING PROGRAM by upperclassmen for 9th graders:

Mentor of the Month for the month of November

Rachel Tallmadge	
Nominating freshmen:	Christine Bowser
	Michael Bowser
	Alex Borowski
	Veronica Braunstein

REFOCUS ROOM

With information from Dr. Wojtalik, Malcolm Beall, and Kim Enterline

On August 29, 2008 we received notification that Fairview High School's nomination of our Refocus Room for Exemplary Inclusive Programs and Practices had been reviewed favorably and selected as a finalist. As part of the validation process a site visit was scheduled for November 14th. This review team consisted of a PaTTAN consultant, our BSE adviser, and three other educational professionals. The visitors spent the day participating in a variety of activities in order to validate the practice. The agenda included a leadership presentation, program observations and interviews with administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, students, parents, Refocus Room staff, a board member and the Sarah Reed supervisor. The team was favorably impressed by what they saw and heard. We were encouraged by their positive comments and we are hopeful that our exemplary program will be recognized by the state. Should this occur we will be awarded the opportunity to be recognized publicly and to receive a mini-grant that will support development and mentoring to other schools.

This month has been an active one in the Refocus Room. The students that come to talk about personal issues they are dealing with are still coming, and some are making great progress. There are some new students that have come for discipline reasons who have also opened up and share some things that help explain why they might be having the acting out behaviors.

Here is a listing of the total number of students that came, and for what reason they were here:

Gross Disrespect	Theft	Disruptive Behavior	AWOP	AWOL	Other	Inappropriate Language
36	5	7	3	3	25	2

Racial Slurs	Emotional Support	Academic Support	ASASP
1	32	130	44

Unsung Hero Award

This award is in recognition of an individual who has exercised virtues of generosity, perseverance, or citizenship through actions unbeknownst to most, but known as outstanding to a few. The Unsung Hero is an individual who goes about his/her daily ways without flaunting such actions or partaking in them for the purpose of personal gain. This individual may be held in the eyes of a few, but will now be held in the hearts of many. "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us everyday." ~ Sally Koch

Invitation to nominate an individual has been announced, and nominations are being considered by the principals.